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Propane Use in Ag Market Fact Sheet

Propane-powered farm equipment helps producers improve their bottom line by cutting costs, time, and emissions while boosting productivity.

Irrigation Engines

- New propane-powered engines typically cost 20 to 40 percent less than diesel engines for comparable power.
- Propane-powered engines produce up to 24 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gasoline, and 11 percent fewer emissions than diesel engines.
- Propane burns cleaner and has fewer deposits on engine components, contributing to longer engine life and fewer maintenance issues.
- Most farmers save 40 percent or more with propane-powered engines compared to diesel-fueled engines doing the same job.
- Compared with natural gas, propane-powered engines provide 10 percent more horsepower per unit.
- New, high-performing propane engines can provide up to 300 horsepower of continuous power.

Building/Water Heating

- Farmers save 25 percent or more with propane water heating versus electricity.
- On-demand tankless water heaters, also available in condensing models, achieve their high efficiency by eliminating the thermal standby losses from the storage tank and demonstrate efficiencies of at least 90 percent.
- Propane-powered building heat—including boilers, hot air furnaces, or radiant heaters—are highly efficient and offer thermal efficiencies up to 95 percent.

Grain Dryers

- Today's propane-powered grain dryers are up to 50 percent more efficient than past models.
- More than 80 percent of grain dryers run on propane because of lower cost of operation, better energy efficiency, and increased reliability and productivity.

Weed Control

- Propane-powered flame weeding systems offer a clean, highly effective solution for organic weed control by eliminating herbicide use or tedious manual labor.
- Propane flame weeding technology uses heat to kill weeds by rupturing the internal cells of plants, with higher efficiency than organic herbicides.

Generators

- Propane-powered generators can supply reliable power to agricultural operations, even when independent of the grid.
- Propane standby generators are available in a wide variety of capacities, so there's a model that will meet the needs of any size home, building, or business.
- Propane's indefinite shelf life makes it an ideal fuel for generators, whereas diesel degrades over time.
- Propane burns cleaner than diesel and can be stored on-site, either above- or below-ground, without risk of ground or ground water contamination.
- Propane can produce 16 percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions per unit of energy compared with diesel, according to data from the U.S. Department of Energy.